UK no longer hiring foreign nurses to accommodate its own 'homegrown' graduates

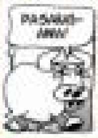
War on Reds' focus: Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac

Ombudsman finds enough basis to probe Masinloc mess

Oh, those gorgeous young men in skimpy outfits as 'Twilight Dancers'



GMA gets 70% grade from Congress group



By Christine O. Avendaño

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION scored 70 percent—but that's "not necessarily" a failing grade.

That cheerful statement was made yesterday by

GMA GETS / A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, July 20, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 222 P18

'Gringo' tops controversial nursing board examination

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANGALDAN, PANGASINAN—IT WAS THE longest month for Gringo de Guzman San Diego, 29, as he waited anxiously for the results of the controversial nursing board examinations given this year.

San Diego was worried, not that he was un-

GRINGO / A15

Bolante a test case for US

Under 'No Safe Haven' program, visa of suspected grafter is revoked

By Nimfa U. Rueda, Contributor

LOS ANGELES—THE CASE OF JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" Bolante could test the strength of a US program that punishes foreigners suspected of corruption by taking away their privilege to travel to the United States.

Under the program called "No Safe Haven," the visa of a foreign government official—whether past or incumbent—may be revoked if there is reason to believe that the person is corrupt even if he/she has neither been convicted in the country of origin nor engaged in an illegal act in the United States. (More details on Page A6.)

With the US government still to announce why Bolante's B1/B2 visa was revoked, the former agriculture undersecretary's continued detention—now on its 13th day and with no records showing that he is under deportation proceedings—leads immigration experts to believe it is no ordinary case.

"It seems irregular. His visa might not have been revoked following the normal process," said Carl Shusterman, a top im-

BOLANTE / A6

RP plea: Please allow Filipinos to hitch ride

By Volt Contreras

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT LACKED IN ships and aircraft, it tried to make up in letters to foreign countries pleading with them to let Filipinos hitch a ride in their evacuation vessels out of war-battered Lebanon.

The Department of Foreign Affairs sent a barrage of notes verbales to various embassies—the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Italy—that were rushing to pull out their citizens from bombed-out Beirut.

"The problem is, we don't have ships where our nationals can board, unlike the US and French," DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said. "We have very limited resources."

Also yesterday, the DFA announced a repatriation plan, called "Oplan Sagip OFW sa Lebanon," as Israeli warplanes continued to pound Hezbollah bases there. (Story on this page.)

Malacañang said that a first batch of 200 "mostly distressed" overseas Filipino workers was to move out by bus today for the 90-km trip from Beirut to Damascus in Syria. There, they would be airlifted on Friday to Dubai and Manila by a chartered Kuwaiti Airlines flight.

The 200 had sought refuge at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish in Beirut's Christian district of Sanine. Another 800 Filipinos have registered to be moved out once an alert level 4 requiring a mandatory evacuation is declared.

The alert remained at level 3 yesterday, meaning Filipinos should leave their homes for relocation sites.

Marlbeth Sayson, 36, a native of Argao town in Cebu, sent a text message to her relatives from Beirut on Sunday saying: "What's the latest news? We are OK here with God's mercy. As of now, we have not heard any firing but we are not yet safe because we don't know when the war will end."

Sayson's mother, Paulita, said her daughter was inquiring about government efforts to help the OFWs.

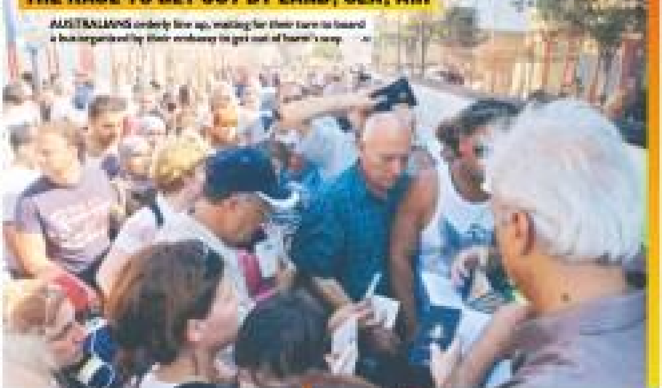
Another OFW worker told a relative, Margarita Lozada, also in Argao, in an SMS message to "Please pray for me. We are safe here but I don't know what's the latest news because we are still in the mountains."

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos, speaking to reporters after a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday on efforts to help Filipinos in Lebanon, said that "she's not going to count the cost for any OFW. Walang iiwanan dito (No one will be left behind). Every life is sacred."

The DFA said that it had requested, through its Office of European Affairs, the embassies of France, United Kingdom and Italy "for their assistance in accommodating overseas Filipino workers

RP PLEA / A6

THE RACE TO GET OUT BY LAND, SEA, AIR



AUSTRALIANS orderly line up, waiting for their turn to board a bus organized by their embassy to get out of Beirut's way. AP



AMERICANS are evacuated by chopper to Cyprus starting Sunday. US Marines carry boxes of water supplies for the passengers. AP



LEBANESE-SWEDISH nationals arrive safely in Turkey's Mediterranean coastal city of Mersin on Wednesday via a Turkish ship. Turkey is one of the five transit points from where evacuees can fly home. AP



BRITS AND OTHER EUROPEANS dock in the Cyprus port of Limassol aboard a British ship. These ships carrying about 1,300 evacuees are the latest wave in the foreign exodus from war-battered Lebanon. AP

8th day: Israel unleashes more air strikes, sends ground troops

BEIRUT, LEBANON—ISRAEL ON Wednesday unleashed more air strikes on Lebanon and launched ground attacks on Hezbollah guerrilla positions across the border, killing 41 civilians and destroying 20 homes and buildings.

Hezbollah guerrillas retaliated by firing at least eight more rockets on Haifa, hitting a building in Israel's third-largest city. No injuries were reported.

Despite international diplomatic efforts, there was no sign that Israel or its Lebanese Shiite Muslim foes were ready to heed the Beirut government's pleas for an immediate halt to the 8-day-old fighting that has cost 277 lives in Lebanon and 29 in Israel.

The conflict has forced about 180,000 Lebanese to flee their homes. Panicked foreigners have flooded out of the country. (See story in The World, Page A20.)

The New York Times, however, reported an American-Israeli consensus was emerging on how to resolve the conflict that began on July 12 when Hezbollah guerrillas raided an Israeli border outpost, seized two Israeli soldiers and offered to swap the pair for Lebanese and Palestinians languishing in Israeli jails.

Under the consensus, Israel would continue to bombard Lebanon for at least another week to degrade the capabilities of Hezbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran. US Secretary of State Condoleezza

STORY / A6

Two Japanese surprised why 'Nicole' in court

By Volt Contreras

FOR TWO JAPANESE WOMEN ON A HOLIDAY trip to Manila, attending the Subic rape trial on Tuesday was a welcome detour from their otherwise light itinerary.

After all, they have also been working to help the "Nicoles" of their home country.

Masayo Niwa and Miho Nagahashi followed the four-hour proceedings at the Makati Regional Trial Court with the help of an interpreter, in a show of support for the Filipino woman accusing four US Marines of rape.

In an interview after the hearing, Niwa expressed "surprise" at the way Nicole was being made to watch the proceedings, and was being watched in turn.

In Japan, Niwa said through an interpreter, "we have a tendency to protect the victim from being exposed during sensitive discussions [in court]. We actually have less of such discussions and rely more on documents."

"We don't want to hurt the victim again, who was already raped. She can experience the same hurt when sensitive

TWO JAPANESE / A15

Gonzalez warns bishop: No one is above the law

By Armand N. Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAYING NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that Bishop Antonio Tobias could be criminally charged for harboring Magdalo soldiers out to bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gonzalez told reporters that state lawyers were evaluating a statement given by Tobias in two television interviews on Tuesday that he had given sanctuary in his official residence to Army 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan along with six other rebel soldiers who had escaped detention.

"I think there is a liability, but I don't want to discuss Tobias for a while. He might stir a hornet's nest," Gonzalez said. "We have a provision on harboring fugitives ... in the Revised Penal Code."

Although he had not yet made any conclusion on the case, Gonzalez said he was concerned that Tobias was "flouting the law."

"Allowing his house to be used for plotting ... Out of those statements, we already get a picture of what he is trying to do," Gonzalez said.

Asked if bishops were above the law, Gonzalez replied, "I don't think anybody is above the law."

San Juan was implicated in the aborted takeover of the Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati City in an attempt to oust Ms Arroyo in July 2003 by soldiers calling themselves Magdalo. He escaped in January but was recaptured a month later.

GONZALEZ / A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Lopez report: Once a plotter ...

A NUMBER OF KEY PLAYERS IN THE FEB. 24 FAILED coup plot turned out to have been involved in past coups, a military investigation into the February incident showed.

Amnesty



Tonyboy tells probers he's not a coup backer

Lim videotape

No dope on Tonyboy

HK maids lose appeal to abolish monthly levy





Bolante a test case for US 'No Safe Haven' doctrine

Proclamation vs corruption

Palace antigraft body report on fertilizer scam fails to meet deadline

COA documents not in

IN THE KNOW

They can run but they can't hide

Crimes covered

Pinochet, Cavallo

No record of his case

Formal petition

Arrested before indicted

Public interest vs privacy

Cover-up?

Is it a crime? CBCP rallies round Novaliches prelate

Six bishops in coup plot?

For common good

'Wild allegations'

Gonzalez warns bishop: No one is above the law

No specific conclusions

CIDG, NBI probe



TOBIAS:



GONZALEZ:

Church not involved

Troops hunt Abu Sayyaf rebs who pulled off Jolo ambush



HIDALGO

After DepEd, Hidalgo eyes private sector

By Alcuin Papa

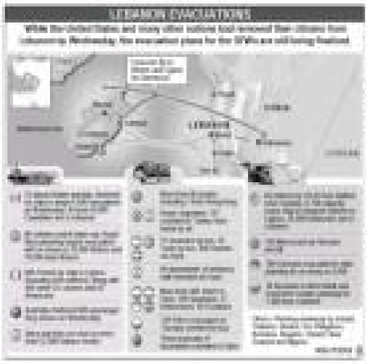




RP plea: Please allow Filipinos to hitch ride



LEBANESE GIRL and a baby are among the 100 Lebanese-Swedish dual nationals who arrive safely in the southern port city of Turkey Mersin.



Finally, an exit plan

Relocation sites

Repatriation voluntary

'Not as dangerous'

Ermita: RP will not take sides in war

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

No repeat of Iraq

8th day: Israel unleashes more air strikes, sends ground troops

Ground attacks

Srifa massacre

Christian suburb hit

Risky consensus

No time limit

Gov't weak

Police get bigger piece of anti-insurgency action

By Luige A. del Puerto

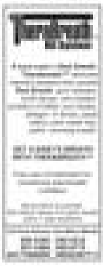
Palace asked to revive budget talks

Philip C. Tubeza



Sorsogon bishop backs Lafayette mine test run









PAL collects fee for gun handling

By Nikko Dizon



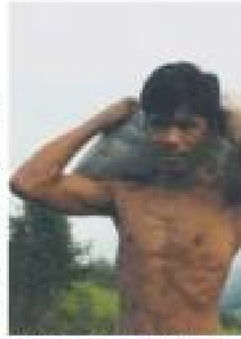


THE DAILY GOSPEL





Mayon: Killer lahar feared



Law dean urges House minority not to surrender impeachment bid

Gov't crackdown on 'fly-by-night' reviewers sought



Senga orders court martial vs Lim et al.

By Dona Pazzibugan

SC grants petition for habeas corpus for 2 UP students

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

President Abalos?

EDITORIAL



Ratcheting demand

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Under the volcano

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

The dividing line

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

[illegible]

Just hate it

YOUNG BLOOD

Richard Allan S. Aquino

[illegible]

DNA on soiled panties and condoms

HUMAN FACE

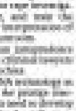


Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

[illegible]

Blessed like Franco

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

[illegible]

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

[illegible]

Take pride in Filipino values

[illegible]

Why the books were destroyed

[illegible]

Will the Church do a Buffett?

[illegible]

LETTERS

Let's keep present school schedule

[illegible]



A HUGE crowd watches a telecast of the Pacquiao-Larios fight at the MCCC mall in Davao City.

Can't they show Pacquiao fight live on television?

[illegible]

High water bill traced to substitute meter reader

[illegible]

Across the NATION

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 9 13 21 24 30 38 — ₱31,647,756.60

War on Reds focuses on 4 provinces

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SIX WEEKS SINCE launching a heightened counter-insurgency campaign in Central Luzon, the military this week has began focusing on four provinces where the presence of communist armies are still felt.

Cleared areas

No retirement



STL repacked to operate like 'jueteng' for more bets

Trial of town mayor in publisher's slay moved to Manila

'Spirits' invade Ilocos town school

Faith healer



ROUNDUP

Farmer killed in grenade blast

3 rob gangs strike in Quezon

Civilians, not rebels, says NDF

Iloilo exec faces libel raps

Pols' lots, houses face auction for unpaid taxes

Auctioned off

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor for Bicol: Bureau Chief Florencio G. Sabusinas

Mayon planetarium also in danger zone



THE P7.7-MILLION planetarium lies within the 6-km permanent danger zone of Mayon Volcano.

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Tabaco City

FOR STUDENTS AND TOURISTS who wish to enjoy a "heaven on earth" experience while learning all about the majestic Mount Mayon, the Mayon planetarium is a perfect destination.

[illegible]

Stamp collecting: All in the family

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

FOR 13-YEAR-OLD ALYSSAH Xeniah Alcala, the tiny rectangular piece pasted on a mail envelope has been her favorite stuff since Grade 2.

[illegible]



ALYSSAH Xeniah Alcala's (right photo) exhibits at the Canberra Stampshow held at the Hellenic Club in Canberra, Australia on March 18-20 (below).



[illegible]

Royal collection

[illegible]

Activist-turned-rebel misses life with family

By Madonna Virola
Somewhere in Occidental Mindoro

HE SPOKE WITH PASSION AS HE TALKED about his work as a spokesperson for the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) in Occidental Mindoro.

[illegible]

Activism

[illegible]

Britain will no longer hire foreign nurses

Job cuts

Expired work permits

'Unfair'

Short-term measure

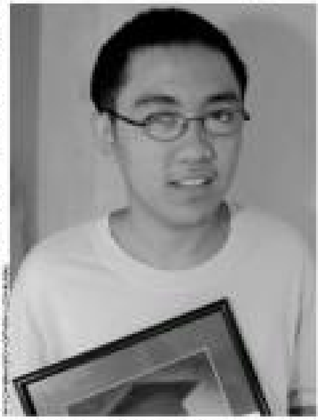
'Gringo' tops controversial nursing board examination

Edged out UP Manila

Named after Honasan

Test answers

Joy at dawn



UP (UNIVERSITY OF PANGASINAN) EDGES OUT UP MANILA.

Overseas work

Good study habits

Special interest

Transparency

GMA gets 70% grade from Congress oversight group



Conditional marks

6 points

Opposition signatories

2 Japanese surprised why 'Nicole' in court

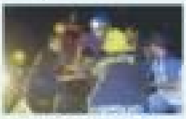
No stranger to Nicole's case

Find a voice


Enjoy every moment.
7:00 am
10:00 am
3:00 pm
7:00 pm
The St. Francis is the ultimate in city living, where every day brings new ways to make the most of life.
THE ST. FRANCIS
SHANGRI-LA PLACE
The ultimate in city living
A Development of The Shang Grand Tower Corporation, part of the Kuok Group of Companies. Australia, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore.

A plus METRO

WHAT'S INSIDE





5 prisoners escape from Munti

DOJ orders suspension of jail guards on watch



Binay rival arrested for libel



DOJ orders BI to issue hold order vs Atienza aide

By Tina G. Santos





Painful trek to land of not much promise



THE RELOCATION site in the province of Laguna.

Accident site closed to workers for now

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MetroBriefs

Homeless families

8 armed men fall

Death for kidnap

Gov't, not Church, should decide on health issues

On Target



Did you know

1 hurt in cargo delivery firm heist along España

By Tina G. Santos

Lookout



HEAT WAVE. Youngsters spray themselves with water from an open fire hydrant, as temperatures rise to the high 90s in Newark, New Jersey, July 19.

Death toll in Java tsunami hits 531

Bush blocks probe of spying program

Suicide bomber kills 59

WorldBriefs

9 Palestinians killed in Gaza, West Bank

Deportation of terror suspect urged

Senate passes stem cell measure

The WORLD

Massive exodus out of Lebanon



Foreigners race to get aboard first available transport to flee bombings

BEIRUT—EUROPEANS AND LEBANESE WITH FOREIGN passports fled Lebanon by the thousands into early Wednesday as the US Navy sent a cruise ship to Beirut to begin the evacuation of some of the 25,000 US citizens in the country.

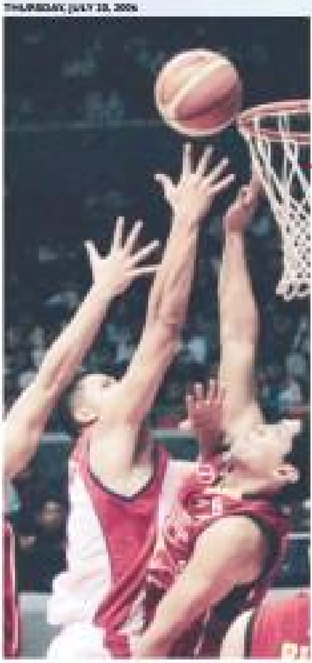
US MARINES assist in the evacuation of American citizens by helicopter at the US Embassy in Awkar, north of Beirut, July 19.

Watching bombs from the bar—a holiday in Beirut



By Paul Hughes

UN resolution to curb Iran nuke program



SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres



Floyd Landis retakes yellow jersey in Tour de France /A24

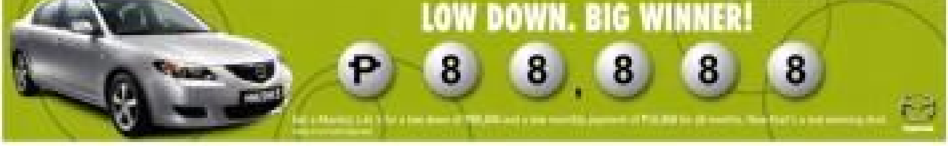
Red Bull stays alive with Game 5 victory

Injured Tejada sees Giants lose









Pagadian routs Ozamiz, nears NBC crown

Lions rip Altas for fifth win

By Marc Anthony Reyes



NBI agents monitoring NCAA games

POC approves 187 athletes for Doha Asiad



RP jins joining World Jr tournament in Vietnam

Milo Marathon Bacolod elims kick off Sunday



PCA snaps Laco netters' winning streak

Food poisoning report out soon



RP-Air21 cagers rip Singapore

Eagles clash with Falcons; Tams battle Tigers today

Injured . . .

SPORTSWATCH

Spalding bares 'hot' basketball designs

Meralco shuttlers score shutout

Pasay derby stakes P2 million

UFC One-Cock Ulutan stakes P900,000

Paref-Springdale bets lead Vismin Interscholastic golf

Marcelo strikes in Rotax invt'l round 3





Duckpin tilt set at Marketplace July 22-30

SPORTS

Armstrong still mad at Tour's race director

Landis retakes yellow jersey



Mickelson ready to move on



PHIL Mickelson hits from a bunker during a practice round.

Mohammed, Murray sign with Pistons

IN THE KNOW

The La Salle Eligibility Scandal

UAAP feels pinch of La Salle's absence

By Francis Ochoa and Jasmine W. Payo



GAMES between Ateneo and La Salle always pack playing venues.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Ernesto G. Yabardo



Gary V.: Who am I to judge Martin and John?

... and he isn't bolting 'ASAP'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT SEEMED UNLIKELY for Gary Valenciano, Unicef goodwill ambassador and devout Christian, to get caught in controversies, but there was persistent talk that he was bolting ABS-CBN's Sunday musical-variety show "ASAP 2006," just like colleague and friend Martin Nievera.

Gary admitted he had heard the rumors, but insisted that he's very much content with the show—and network. "I'm happy with the people I work with. A lot can still be done to showcase the artists' best, but that's a challenge I'm willing to take with them. My coworkers want the same thing. It may take time, but for as long as [the network] is willing to listen, then we're okay."

So he's not bolting "ASAP"?

"I'm leaving, but not permanently," he said.

Early next year, Gary is going to Los Angeles to study music production, sound engineering and film scoring at the Musicians Institute of Technology. Son Gabriel is enrolling in the same school.

He's eyeing the international gospel scene, he insisted; he's not out to compete with Martin, who's now a headliner in Las Vegas.

"I want to perform there, but I don't want to make Vegas my base," Gary clarified, adding that he'd be shuttling between Manila and LA.

He had just renewed his contract with ABS-CBN, he said. "It's a very flexible [deal] that can be adjusted [depending on] what may happen abroad. Martin doesn't have the same contract [with "ASAP"], but I felt I needed one, to protect the interests of both parties. Wherever I'm in town, I'm committed to the show."

Is Gary set to be godfather to Martin's soon-to-be-born son with longtime girlfriend Katrina Ojeda?

"I'm the ninong of Ram, his second son [with ex-wife Pops Fernandez]," Gary said. "When I asked Martin about Katrina's condition, he didn't deny it ... It's not for me to judge my friend. I know Martin well. He has a golden heart."

As for Katrina, Gary finds her "nice." He said he was "praying for their continued happiness."

Another incident

Gary recently found himself in the middle of another incident—when he acted as referee to John Estrada and [illegible] who had a showdown over [illegible] at the [illegible] theater in [illegible].

He commented, "I don't look at it [like] I was caught in the middle. I just did what I felt was the right thing to do. Everyone felt the tension. I tried to convince them that it wasn't [illegible]

GARY V., A23



Jaymee Ong on James Caan: 'He's lovely, sexy'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

KUALA LUMPUR—AS HOST of the AXN entertainment news show "e-Buzz," Australian-Chinese actress-model Jaymee Ong hobnobs with the rich and famous.

Jaymee, currently based in Singapore, has had plenty of exposure in both the Hong Kong and Hollywood film communities. In 1998, she was featured in the chop-socky hit "Gen-X Cops" (with Jackie Chan) and the indie film "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" [illegible], both in 1999. It was only a matter of time before Hollywood beckoned.

TAKE FIVE

In 2005, she had a cameo role in Jerry Bruckheimer's "Small Fighter," followed by roles in [illegible] and TV ("Las Vegas," "Entourage").

She took over as "e-Buzz" host from original anchor [illegible].

Inquirer Entertainment interviewed Jaymee at the launch of AXN's "The Amazing Race Asia."

What led you to "e-Buzz"?

Before [illegible] signed up as host, I had actually met with AXN people and had been offered the job. At first, I said no, though I really wanted the job. Fortunately, when I decided to live in Singapore, the slot was again available!

You can pass for a Filipina.

I get that a lot. I'm often mistaken for a Latina and Hawaiian. It's the pan-Asian look.

Is that an asset or liability in Hollywood?

It's kinda strange. I lived there for seven years, acting and modeling. I hired a dialect coach to acquire an American accent. But in auditions, I was often told: "You're not Asian enough."

It's a tough industry. A lot depends on timing and meeting the right people. I was just thankful for every job.

Did you encounter prejudice?

Not outright. People are more sensitive when it comes to race, but when it comes to a woman's weight, that's a different story!

What was it like shooting "Las Vegas" with James Caan?

It was amazing. I played an Asian version of [illegible]. James was lovely and sexy. At first, it was intimidating. I kept thinking, "He's Sonny from 'The Godfather'!" But he was warm and welcoming.

What was it like working on "Entourage"?

I wanted to acting classes with the [illegible]

JAYMEE, A23





Oh, those gorgeous young men in skimpy outfits!

DOLLY WOOD



Flame or fame?

FYI (For Your Indulgence)

Terrific trio

Flag or flak?

ROUNDUP



CHRISTIANE Amanpour in Kenya

AIDS, the enemy

Rock star wannabes

'Sideways'



SIDEWAYS

Music video

'The Producers'

'Shall We Dance?'

'Kubrador' could be this year's 'Maximo Oliveros'

RUSHES

'I do'





MERYL STREEP

Yes, she was

Let's be 'Friends'



BRAD and Jen

And where's Brad?



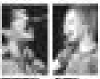
OPRAH and Gayle

I'm not gay

High-profile breakup

'Immortal' Cash

Avril weds



DERYCK AVRIL



Winning sisters

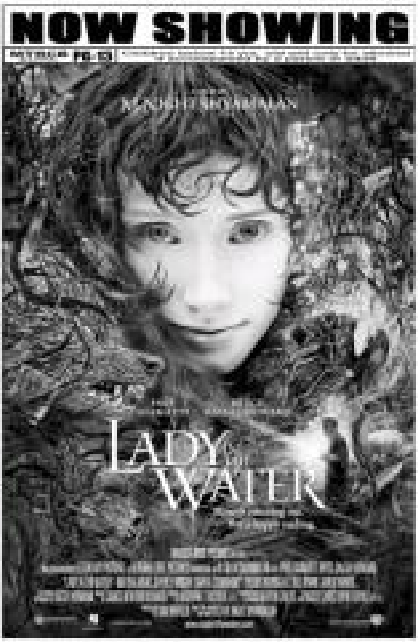




Gary V.: Who am I to judge Martin and John?

Jaymee Ong on James Caan . . .



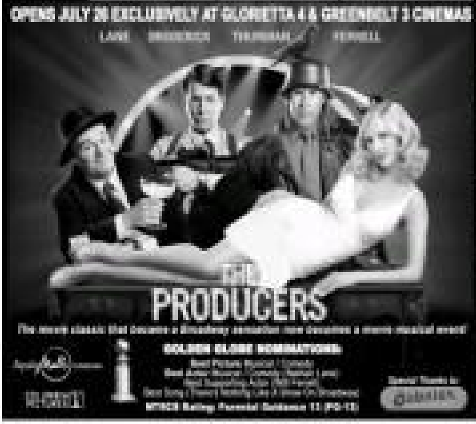


AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema							
G1	1 WHITE LADY	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS			
G4	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 NACHO LIBRE	3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
GB1	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST					
GB3	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN		
ATC	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
ACC	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 LADY IN THE WATER	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 NACHO LIBRE			
M2	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 WHITE LADY	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 LADY IN THE WATER	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS		

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN
AYALA CENTER	MARKET! MARKET!





GALLERIA

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 • THX
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 WHITE LADY
6 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
7 LAKE HOUSE
8 WILD ORCHID 2
9 NACHO LIBRE
10 LOVE WRECKED

ERMITA

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 WILD ORCHID 2
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 NACHO LIBRE
7 WHITE LADY

METRO EAST

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 NACHO LIBRE
4 WHITE LADY
5 LADY IN THE WATER
6 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
7 WILD ORCHID
8 UNITED 93

NOVALICHES

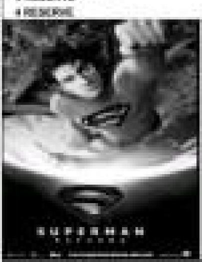
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 NACHO LIBRE
3 WHITE LADY
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
6 WILD ORCHID 2

CITISQUARE MALABON

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 WILD ORCHID 2



STA. ROSA

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 WHITE LADY
3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

LIPA

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 WHITE LADY
3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

DASMARINAS

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 WHITE LADY
3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 NACHO LIBRE

ANGELES

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 WHITE LADY

IMUS

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
3 WHITE LADY
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 NACHO LIBRE

STARMILLS

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LOVE WRECKED
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
5 WHITE LADY
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

BACOLOD

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 THE NUN
3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 WHITE LADY
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3

ILOILO

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SEE NO EVIL
3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 WHITE LADY
5 LOVE WRECKED



'Supernova' search sizzles, confounds

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Frisky females

'The Contender'





BANARES brothers EJ (left) and Brandon with their mothers Lulu (second from left) and Ton Abligaor

Fil-Am brothers sing, work to make Pinoy kids smile

By Marinel R. Cruz

"DURING THE PREVIOUS SUMMERS THAT we spent here, we noted the poor state of street kids and wanted to help."

EJ Banares, half of the US-based singing duo Banares Brothers, was speaking to a group of entertainment writers about "Pinong Pinoy USA," the project he helped put together with younger brother Brandon.

When EJ, 18, and Brandon, 13, hosted a party in June to celebrate their graduation from high school and junior high, respectively, they asked their guests to donate money instead of presents—for Pinong Pinoy.

"We raised over $2,000," said Brandon. "We used the money to buy food pills, wheelchairs, hearing aids and other stuff."

Last month, they visited a poor community in Paranaque, where they sang for the children and gave away food, toys, body braces and prosthetic legs.

"They had written to us to say they needed help," said EJ. "Before we went there, we first verified whether they were really in need of assistance. We also plan to give away goods at the malls shows that we'll be doing here."

The Banares Brothers are proteges of Toni Abligaor of the dancing duo Abligaor Sisters. They will perform in a series of mall shows starting tomorrow at the Robinson's Place on Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City. Guest performers are Marissa Sanchez and the Abligaor Sisters.

Are you working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development?

EJ: No. This is just one project, but we plan on keeping it going. Hopefully this is well known not just by brother and myself. Other groups may want to help. That's why we're setting up a website where you can see the pictures of people we've helped, read some of the letters we've received, and find how you can help. You can write to us, or find some other way to contact us.

What do you get out of working on Pinong Pinoy?

EJ: I see in the faces of the people we've helped that the burden they are carrying seems to lighten. That's what's important to me.

Brandon: I remember a girl we met at the Paranaque rally. She's 19 years old. She needed prosthetic legs. One of her legs was deformed and the other had been amputated. The health workers were having a hard time putting on one of her prosthetic legs. Her dad said, "Anak, straighten your leg." She did. And she started crying tears of joy.

How did you get to join the J Abligaor Sisters Performing Arts Center (ASPAC)?

B: We just signed up. Our mom is often in their dance studio. When we saw them, we both said, "Wow! The Abligaor Sisters!"

Do you plan to record an album here or have you already sent demos to international recording companies?

EJ: We're really looking for a recording deal here. This is where we feel most comfortable. We love the Philippines. We come here often. We're actually thinking of staying here, but after I finish college.

Can you speak Filipino?

B: We understand it. We know a lot of Filipino words, but we still cannot speak the language fluently. We hope to learn.

Will you always be a tandem or would you also consider separate careers?

B: It depends on how our things turn out. We're still enjoying being called The Banares Brothers. If we eventually find that separating will be best for both our careers, then maybe we'll do that. Right now, a lot of people who come up to us after watching our concerts say we sound good together.

Which would you really like to pursue—acting, dancing or singing?

EJ: I want to do all.

There are only two of you in the family. Don't you wish you have a sister?

B: Yeah, EJ's a sad story.

EJ: We had a little sister once. She was born in October. I think this was in 1994. She died of the Sudden Infant Death (SID) syndrome.

(The Banares Brothers will be at Robinson's Place Novaliches on July 22; SM Bicutan, July 28; Fere Galeon Manila, July 29; Star Commonwealth, July 30; SM Bacoor, Aug. 4; SM Fairview, Aug. 11; Robinson's Metroeast, Aug. 12; SM Bacoor, Aug. 19 and SM Marikina, Aug. 20.)

TAKE FIVE

This is just one project, but we plan to keep it going

ENTERTAINMENT



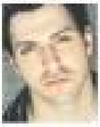
One of 13 'Rock Star' finalists goes home today

HERE ARE THE LAST FIVE OF THE 13 REmaining "Rock Star: Supernova" finalists left standing this week. Today, one of these 13 driven and talented singers—all front-man material—will be sent home by judges Tommy Lee, Gilby Clarke and Jason Newsted.

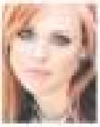
PATRICE PIKE, musician



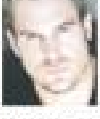
RYAN STAR, singer



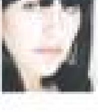
STORM LARGE, singer

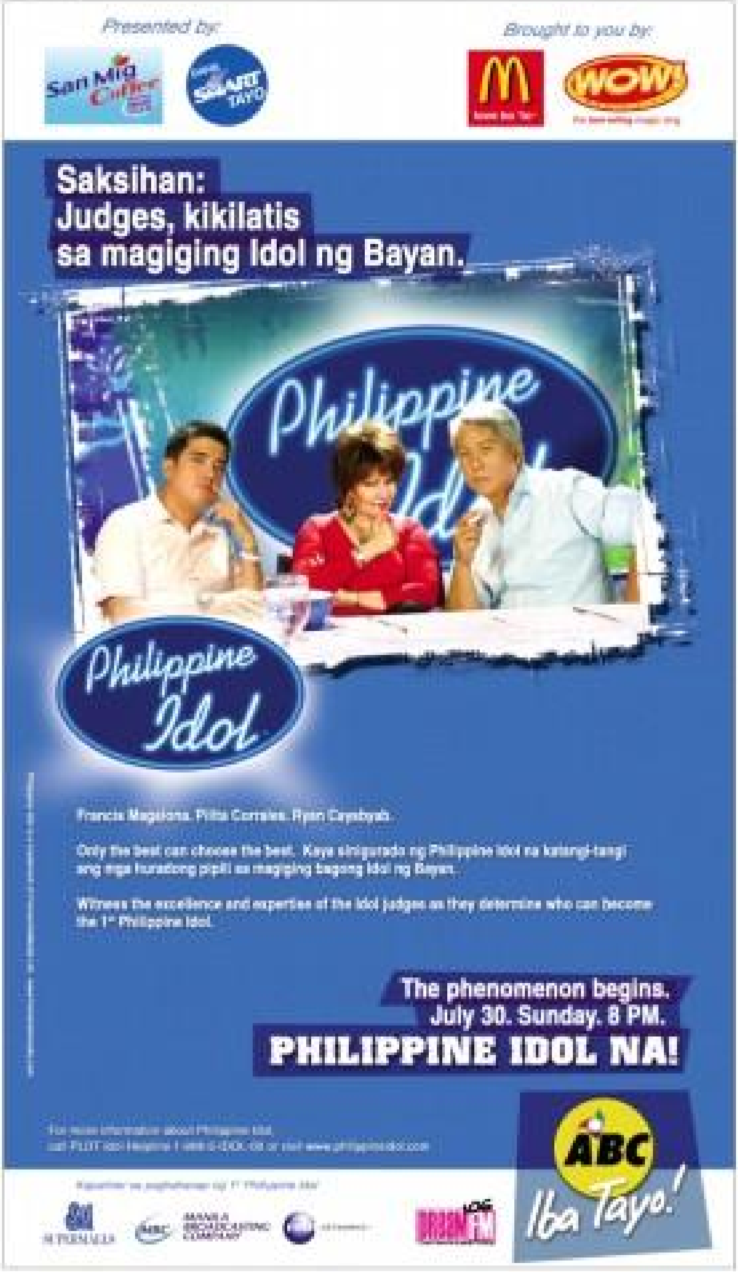


TOBY RAND, singer/surfer/snowboarder/carpet shop keeper



ZAYRA ALVAREZ RULETA, singer/songwriter





BUSINESS
Editor: Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Dennis B. Martinez



Ombudsman to probe Masinloc mess



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo tries out a Honda motorbike at the inauguration of Honda Philippines' plant in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Finds enough basis in Bayan suit vs PSALM directors, execs

By Abigail L. Ho and Michael Lim Ubac

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN HAS FOUND "ENOUGH BASIS" to investigate graft charges filed by militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) against board members of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

In a two-page order issued on July 12, the Ombudsman said the respondents should file their counter-affidavits and other controverting evidence within 10 days of their receipt of the order.

They should also submit proofs of service of their counter-affidavits within the 10-day period.

"Failure to file their counter-affidavits or evidence, with proof of service thereof to the complainant, within the aforesaid period shall be deemed a waiver and the proceeding shall continue according to existing rules," the order said.

Respondents in the complaint included Cabinet members who also sit on the PSALM board, among them Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio and PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco were

OMBUDSMAN/B2

SHRINKING BUDGET DEFICIT

UBS bullish on RP

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENT BANK UBS HAS EXPRESSED confidence that the Philippines would sustain its improving fiscal condition as it projected substantial gains in the area of enhancing revenue collection.

"UBS' view remains unchanged that 2006 is still a fiscal stabilization year (and) hitting the target deficit appears increasingly credible," the investment bank said in its latest assessment of the Philippine economy.

The investment bank added that the government could have already seen the worst in terms of tax collection shortfalls and that rising tax revenues were seen in the coming months.

The confidence it has on the government's ability to post a lower than programmed budget deficit this year was anchored on the sizeable budget surpluses recorded in the three consecutive months to June and the marked improvement in tax collection.

The national government posted a budget surplus of P11.7 billion in June, bringing the

UBS/B4

Aussie firm raises $18.7M for mine project

By Christine A. Gadion

AUSTRALASIAN PHILIPPINES MINING INC. has raised $18.7 million to finance the pre-development and start the construction of its mining facility in Nueva Vizcaya beginning in September.

The subsidiary of Australia's Climax Mining Ltd. said in a report to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines

AUSSIE/B4

CURRENCIES

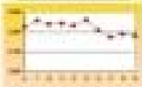


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

As of 5 p.m. July 19, 2006

As of 5 p.m. July 19, 2006

GOLD



STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.47 percent lower yesterday as high oil prices scared off investors with the prospect of lower corporate profits and slower economic growth, dealers said.

Although oil was easier overnight, it picked up again in Asian trade on Israeli-launched missile attacks into Lebanon amid concerns over a possible widening of the Middle East conflict, they said.

STOCKS/B4

Peza okays 18 projects

Total commitments rise to ₱27.7B

Ombudsman to probe . . .

Change the top pick

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

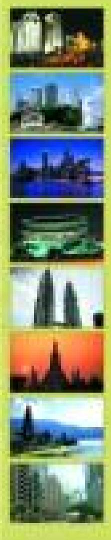
Local investors swamp P2-B NDC bond float

Proceeds to finance agricultural projects



DOLE averts workers' strike at Chevron

Gov't to review guarantee to port project



Highlands taps BDO for share offer

Developer seeks to raise P2 billion in next 5 years

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Ayala raises P5.8B from stocks offer

Stocks ...

GOINGS-ON

South Luzon confab

New name

Talk on tax savings

Bay Pinoy Fair

Aussie firm ...

EasyCall reports turnaround in earnings

Tokyo up as oil falls, dollar firms on US data

UBS bullish on RP

People, Events & Products

Pascual Laboratories: Upholding a legacy of caring

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL RESIDENT IS P100,000 RICHER IN MINOLA PROMO



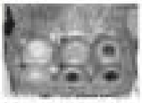
Search for Philippine Science High School scholars



PAPA BANANA CATSUP, NAT'L NUTRITION COUNCIL VISIT SCHOOLS FOR NUTRITION MONTH

Product FILES

Mister Donut introduces new flavors at Lucban Festival Manila



TALE FORKLIFTS FOR FAST SERVICES, NESTLE CABUYAO PLANT





NEW PMA PRESIDENT

BUSINESS

Gov't paid ₱391.7B worth of debts in H1

Six-month level is 24% higher than programmed, 37% more than year-ago's P286.42 billion



CRUZ

Mideast dev't prompts RP to review inflation figures

Singapore firm to build water treatment facility

LifeStyle



Indonesian food blast

Restaurant 9501 holds a festival highlighting the cuisine of Indonesia



GADO GADO (left) is steamed vegetables with peanut sauce; nasi tumpeng, or yellow rice cone, a special dish for weddings and birthdays

WHEN MONA BISHER Valdes walked in and was introduced as the one who cooked the Indonesian food we were about to taste, the first thing that came to mind was, "Don't trust a thin chef." She laughed when she was told she was too thin to be a chef. She had to work at her figure, she said, biking about 60 kilometers a day as her exercise.

COUNTRY COOKING



Micky Fenix

[illegible]

Secret is in the sauce

[illegible]



MONA Bisher Valdes demonstrates how to serve the spice ...









FOLD in all dry ingredients.

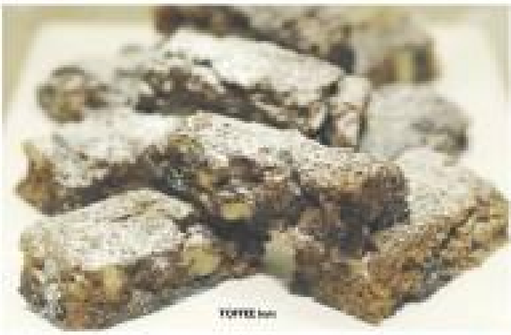




CUT INTO bars and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Crunchy, gooey, sweet coffee fix

STEP BY STEP



TOFFEE bars

Ingredients

Indonesian food blast

Far from bland







Hotdog, cheese and bread for filling 'baon'

FOR A FILLING BAON FOR school-age kids, Gardenia shares this recipe that the rest of the family may also enjoy.

Cooking classes

New snack with dip



SAN MIGUEL CORN makes its first foray into the snacks market with the new E-Aji Dip Snax, the snack with dip.

E-Aji, Japanese for "hot" or tasting, comes with a dip in every pack. It is made from real and natural ingredients and is MSG free. It is available in seven different chips and dip combinations: Fries with Extremely Cheesy Garlic Dip, Fries with Totally Sweet Chili Dip, Nachos with Fiesta Salsa Dip, Nachos with Extremely Cheesy Garlic Dip, Nachos with Savory Mayo BBQ Dip, Ridges with Cheddar Cheese Dip and Ridges with Totally Sweet Chili Dip.

Discover Japanese flavor

LEARN THE SECRETS TO MAKING DELICIOUS side recipes and dessert dishes the Japanese way. Join San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's (SMPFCC) special cooking demonstration dubbed "Japanese Cooking Made Easy" featuring Sammy Tabogo on July 29, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at SMPFCC in Ugong, Pasig City.

Know the ways to prepare one of the most popular Oriental cuisines and be in the know of practical techniques in good cooking. Call 6719875 loc. 402, 504, 405 and 2771. Class fee is P800. A 20-percent discount awaits all My Great Food Club members.

Visit www.sanmiguelfood.com

'Baon' tips and recipes

MAYA, makers of premium hotcake mixes and cake mixes, wants to help make baon preparation easier for moms.

It offers the following tips and some easy-to-do recipes:

1. List down what baon you will prepare for the week. This will prevent rushing in the morning. Any special preparation can also be done ahead of time. A list will help avoid wastage and guide grocery purchases.
2. Baon should include at least three food groups: carbohydrates, proteins, and fruits and vegetables.
3. Food safety should be the number one priority. Foods that cannot stay fresh for long should be avoided.
4. An adequate amount of fresh water should be included.
5. Be creative! Use colors and designs that are appealing to children.
6. Prepare baon in realistic quantities so as to encourage a child to eat until he finishes.

Maya has come up with two baon recipes that are nutritious, easy to prepare and are likely to appeal to children. The Choco Pinwheel Cookies use Maya Chocolate Hotcake mix, while the Ham and Cheese Waffle uses Maya Original Hotcake Mix.



CHOICE: Pinwheel Cookies and Ham and Cheese Waffle

Choco Pinwheel Cookies

1 250-g pack Maya Original Hotcake mix
1/2 c butter or shortening
3 tbsp water
1 200-g pack Maya Chocolate Hotcake mix
1/2 c butter or shortening
3 tbsp water

Combine Original Hotcake mix and butter in a bowl until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Add enough water to form dough into a ball. Set aside. Combine Chocolate Hotcake mix and butter in a bowl until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Add enough water to form a ball of dough. Set aside.

Roll out the white dough between two sheets of wax paper into a rectangle. Do the same for the chocolate dough. Chill both for 30 minutes.

Invert the white dough against the chocolate dough. Press them together with a rolling pin. Roll up the dough tightly in jelly roll fashion. Wrap in wax paper. Chill.

Slice into 1/4-inch pieces and place on greased baking sheets. Bake in a preheated 350°F oven for 12-15 minutes or until edges are lightly browned.

Ham and Cheese Waffle

1 medium-size egg
2 tbsp oil
3/4 c water
1 250-g package Maya Original Hotcake Mix
4 slices sweet ham
4 slices cheddar cheese
Mayonnaise
Salad tomato
Lettuce

Beat egg slightly in a bowl; add in oil, water and hotcake mix. Stir just until slightly lumpy. (Do not over mix). Pour 1/4 cup batter onto a pre-heated square waffle griddle. Cook until golden brown. Spread some mayonnaise on one side of the waffle, top with ham and cheese and garnish with lettuce and tomato. Cover with another piece of waffle. Cut into fours and serve.

Recipes courtesy of the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center, Liberty Commodities Corp. Call 8920011 local 108, or 8921182.

LIFESTYLE



AVOCADO Club Egg Rolls

Has it been eight years since CPK first opened in Manila? You better believe it!

Guess who came with dinner



ARCHIE Rodriguez and CPK chef [illegible] special-deliver the Lifestyle staff's Friday dinner.

ON A BUSY, BUSY Friday night, who would show up at Lifestyle's madhouse of an office but the gorgeous Archie Rodriguez himself!

Why does that name sound familiar? Well, Archie is president of Global Restaurant Concepts, which owns and manages the super popular restaurant California Pizza Kitchen, lovingly nicknamed CPK.

In time for cool (okay, wet) weather, CPK whipped up some new palate-teasers that include Chipotle Chicken Pizza, Milan Pizza, Szechwan Orange Chicken Lettuce Wraps, Thai Crunch Salad, Avocado Club Eggrolls and Shanghai Garlic Noodles.

And those were the very dishes that Archie and the CPK team had us sample to soothe our Friday deadline blues and frayed nerves and grumbling tummies.

"We always try to introduce fresh and exciting dishes to thrill our customers' taste buds," said Archie, ever the entrepreneur. "We have a regular clientele and we make sure we offer a variety of dishes for their satisfaction."

He added that the greatest testament to the success of CPK, which turns eight next month, were the people who've kept coming back.

"We have the best service and our dishes maintain their consistency [illegible] and flavor. At CPK you know what you are going to get. Most of our raw ingredients are imported—from the cheese down to the dressing. We never substitute. But, we always strive to better our dishes and our service."

Our hands-down favorite? The lettuce wraps which, after [illegible] munching, came out as Szechwan [illegible]

[illegible]



CHIPOTLE Chicken



SZECHWAN Orange Chicken Lettuce Wraps

Celebrating life with prime rib, friendship with onion soup

Kitchen Rescue

Reggie Aspiras



French Onion Soup



Leftover food can help feed the hungry

The Consumer

Receipts

Feedback

Dining out

Light entrées for women are in







THAI Crunch Salad





SHANGHAI Garlic Noodles

Guess who came with dinner

Quest for the best bartender

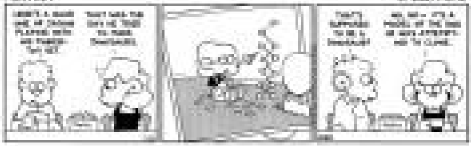


Top chefs in culinary contest

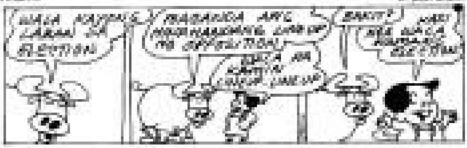


All-day breakfasts

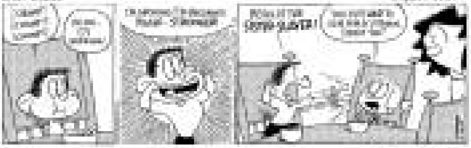
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA



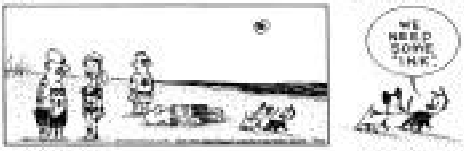
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR



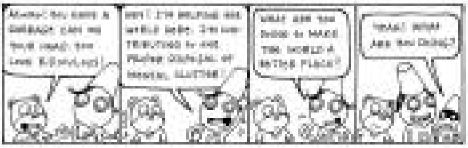
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL



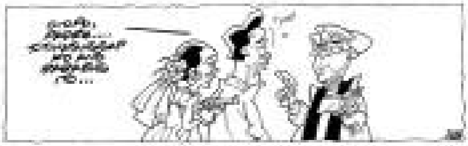
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



ATOMO AND WEBBY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



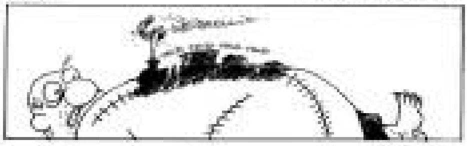
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA



HIGHBOSHOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



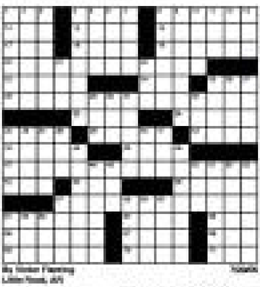
TULDOK
BY PEPU AND TATUM HILAMBLING

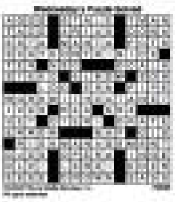


BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

8	5	2	7					
					8	9	4	
7	9	3	1		5	8	6	
	1	8	4		7	5	9	2
	6	4	5					
					1	3	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle